

## VEHICLES



### How soon must I license my vehicle?

Your vehicle must be licensed in the state within 30 days of becoming a Washington resident. You are considered a resident when you register to vote, receive state benefits, apply for any state license at residential rates, or seek in-state tuition rates. You may receive a \$330 minimum traffic fine if you are a resident and do not license your vehicle in this state.

### Where do I go to license my vehicle?

There are almost 200 vehicle licensing offices throughout the state, including County Auditor's offices. Look in the yellow pages of your phone book under "Licensing, Department of" for vehicle licensing offices, or look in the government section of your phone book to look up the County Auditor in your area. You can also find this information on the DOL website at <https://www2.wa.gov/dol/vsagents/>.

### What will I need to license my vehicle?

You will need the following:

- For a new vehicle, the Manufacturer's Statement/Certificate of Origin.
- For used vehicles, the current title and registration. If a lien holder holds the title, you will need to supply a fax or photocopy of the title being held by the lien holder, or a letter from the foreign Department of Motor Vehicles. If your title has been lost, you must apply for a duplicate certificate from the state of issuance.

- Certification that your vehicle has passed a Washington emissions test, if required. It is required by law in urban areas of Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish and Spokane counties. For more information about emissions testing, please visit the Department of Ecology website at [www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov).

- All registered owners must present personal identification. If vehicle title is from another state and there will be no change in registered owners, then only one registered owner signature is needed.
- An odometer reading on your vehicle, if your vehicle is less than ten years old. You and the previous owner must sign an odometer disclosure statement if you are titling and licensing a newly acquired vehicle.
- An empty scale weight slip for trucks, propane powered vehicles and trailers (except travel trailers) if not shown on the previous title or registration.
- Cash or a check for payment of licensing fees and taxes. Credit and debit cards are not accepted at this time.

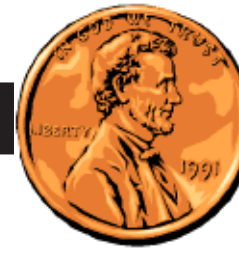
### How do I get a personalized or specialty plate?

Washington offers approximately 15 different specialty plates or emblems. Some have eligibility requirements. For more information, please visit [www.dol.wa.gov/vs/tr-spp.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/vs/tr-spp.htm).

### What must I do to get a disabled persons' parking privilege?

You must bring a completed application, signed by you and your physician, to a vehicle licensing office. Instructions are on the application. Applications are available at any driver licensing office or vehicle licensing office. You may also download an application from the DOL website at [www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420073.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420073.htm).

## BUSINESSES



### How do I start a business?

There are several steps to starting a business in Washington. Determine your business structure (for example: corporation, partnership, sole proprietor). Visit the Washington Licensing Information website at <https://www2.wa.gov/dol/mls/wali/> to obtain your license referrals and forms. Then file your Master Application and other state-required forms. Finally, contact your city and county jurisdictions to determine whether there are any licensing requirements.

## PROFESSIONS



### Is my professional license from another state valid in Washington?

Some, but not all, professional licenses will transfer to Washington. However, due to the large number of possible licenses, you must check on the requirements for your particular license. A comprehensive listing of all professional and occupational licenses is available at: [www.dol.wa.gov/main/biglist.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/main/biglist.htm)

The Department of Licensing has a policy of providing equal access to its services. If you need special accommodation, please call (360) 902-3600 or TTY (360) 664-8885.

DOL Publication PA 1- Rev. 06/03

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

# Starting Out in Washington

Information for new residents:  
Driver Licenses  
Vehicle Registration  
Boat Registration  
Business Licenses  
Professional Licenses

[www.dol.wa.gov](http://www.dol.wa.gov)

# Welcome to Washington!

## DRIVERS



### How soon do I need to apply for my Washington Driver License?

You must apply for a driver license within 30 days of becoming a Washington resident. You are considered a resident when you establish a permanent home in the state, register to vote, receive state benefits, apply for any state license or seek in-state tuition fees.

### Will I be retested?

If the out-of-state license is valid, you will need to qualify on the vision test and medical screening, and pass the knowledge (written) portion of the examination. You will not normally be required to take a drive test. Please note: Former Canadian residents are required to take both the knowledge and the driving tests. Washington State does not have any driver licensing reciprocity agreements with other countries.

### How quickly will I receive my new Washington Driver License?

All valid licenses and instructions permits from other states and countries must be presented. These out-of-state licenses will be invalidated and returned upon issuance of your temporary Washington license. Your new Washington driver license will be processed and mailed to you within 5 days. However, in the event of equipment failure it may take longer. If you have

not received your new license within 30 days, please contact the Department of Licensing (DOL) at (360) 902-4071 or at [fotoreturn@dol.wa.gov](mailto:fotoreturn@dol.wa.gov).

### Where do I go to get my new license?

There are 65 full-service driver licensing offices throughout the state. Check your phone book under "Licensing, Department of" and call the office for days and hours of operation, or find them on DOL's website at [www.dol.wa.gov/ds/maps/state.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/maps/state.htm). There are also four express service offices (located in Downtown Seattle, Olympia, Yakima and Vancouver) that offer all services except driver testing.

### What type of identification do I need to bring?

You must present documents that establish your identity by linking your name, address, photograph and signature. Acceptable documentation is listed at [www.dol.wa.gov/ds/id.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/id.htm).

### Do I need insurance?

If you operate a motor vehicle registered in this state, you must have liability insurance and carry an insurance identification card with you verifying you have a valid vehicle liability insurance policy.

### Does Washington have a Graduated Driver License program for teens?

Yes. Washington has a graduated (intermediate) driver license program for drivers aged 16 to 18, even if the state you moved from has no such program. For a complete description of the program, including restrictions, please visit the DOL website at [www.dol.wa.gov/ds/teen.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/teen.htm).

If a teen already has a license from another state and is relocating to Washington, they need to provide the out-of-state license, provide proof that they satisfactorily completed a traffic safety education class consisting of both classroom and behind the wheel training, and have permission from a parent. The parent must provide their own identification documentation and a document proving relationship to the minor (such as a birth certificate).

### I drive a commercial vehicle in my work. Do I need a special license?

You need a Commercial Driver License (CDL) if you operate any of the following vehicles:

- All single vehicles with a manufacturer's weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more.
- All trailers with a manufacturer's weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more, if the gross weight rating of the combined vehicle is at least 26,001 pounds.
- All vehicles designed to transport 16 or more persons (including the driver). (Private, church, buses.)
- All public school buses regardless of size.
- All vehicles that carry placarded amounts of hazardous materials.

To obtain the CDL, you must pass knowledge and driving skills tests on the type of vehicle you will be operating. You must also present your Social Security card or verification of your Social Security Number, a valid physical examination certification, and pay examination and certification fees. For more details on CDLs, please visit the DOL website at [www.dol.wa.gov/ds/cdl.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/cdl.htm).

### I drive a motorcycle. What are the license requirements?

You are required to pass motorcycle knowledge and skill tests, in addition to the regular automobile driver license tests. If you have completed an approved basic motorcycle rider course within the last 180 days, you may bring your completion card to any driver licensing office, and the knowledge and skill test will be waived. For more information, please go to [www.dol.wa.gov/ds/mtrcycle.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/mtrcycle.htm). Insurance is not required for motorcycles.

## BOATS



### How soon must I license my boat?

New residents have 60 days to register their boat. You must register your boat with the Department of Licensing, unless it is under 16 feet, has a motor capacity of 10 h.p. or less and is used exclusively on non-federal waters. However, if your boat is registered in another state, it can be used in Washington temporarily as long as the primary use is in the other state.

### Where do I go to license my boat?

Vessels can be licensed at any vehicle licensing office. There are almost 200 vehicle licensing offices throughout the state, including County Auditor's offices. Look in the phone book under "Licensing, Department of" or on the DOL website at: <https://www2.wa.gov/dol/vsagents/>.